Message Text

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CONFIDENTIAL RABAT 4963

E. O. 11652: GDS TAGS: UN, MO

SUBJ: PRE-32ND UNGA CONSULTATION WITH MOROCCAN FOREIGN MINISTRY

REF: STATE 205678

- 1. POLITICAL COUNSELOR CALLED ON MFA DIRECTOR FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS ABDELLAH BENKIRANE SEPTEMBER 7 FOR DISCUSSION OF UPCOMING UNGA SESSIONS. BENKIRANE WAS BRIEFED ON U.S. POSITION ON FULL RANGE OF ISSUES OUTLINED IN PARAS 9 THROUGH 12 REFTEL (EXCEPT FOR IF-ASKED ITEMS, WHICH DID NOT ARISE), AND WAS PROVIDED A COPY OF TALKING POINTS IN FRENCH. HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR DETAILED PRESENTATION AND SAID HE WOULD BRIEF MFA SECRETARY OF STATE AHMED CHERKAOUI, WHO FOLLOWS UN ISSUES CLOSELY, ON KEY POINTS.
- 2. BENKIRANE INDICATED THAT MOROCCAN DELEGATION TO UNGA HAD NOT YET BEEN FORMED. FOREIGN MINISTER LARAKI WAS EXPECTED TO HEAD THE DELEGATION AND REMAIN IN NEW YORK FOR MAJOR PORTION OF THE GENERAL DEBATE. BENKIRANE SAID GOM WOULD LOOK FORWARD TO CLOSE AND ACTIVE CONTACTS WITH THE U.S. DELEGATION. HE ALSO TOOK NOTE OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S SPEECH SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 4.
- 3. ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES, BENKIRANE'S COMMENTS INCLUDED WARM CONFIDENTIAL

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PRAISE FOR U.S. MIDDLE EAST PEACE EFFORTS. HE FELT UNGA WOULD PROVIDE EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR CONTINUING THE DIPLOMATIC MOVEMENT ACHIEVED THUS FAR. ON CYPRUS, BENKIRANE INDICATED GOM TAKING GUARDED APPROACH IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE PARTIES, AND DID NOT VIEW PROSPECTS FOR PROGRESS TOWARD SETTLEMENT AS PROMISING IN NEAR TERM. BENKIRANE ALSO WELCOMED ACTIVE U.S. APPROACH ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES.

- 4. ON GUAM, BENKIRANE EXPESSED AGREEMENT WITH VIEW THAT U.S. DEFENSE ARRAGEMENTS CONSISTENT WITH UN CHARTER. HE NOTED PAST CUBAN ACTIVISM ON "DECOLONIZATION" ISSUE AND WONDERED WHETHER ESTABLISHMENT OF U.S. DIPLOMATIC PRESENCE IN HAVANA WOULD HAVE MODERATING EFFECT ON CUBANS. HE WENT ON TO DEPLORE CUBAN ACTIVITIES IN AFRICA, WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS SERIOUS THREAT TO MOROCCAN AND OTHER MODERATES.
- 5. BENKIRANE NOTED THAT SAHARA ISSUE WOULD REMAIN MOROCCO'S MAJOR FOCUS IN NEW YORK, ALTHOUGH GOM DID NOT EXPECT EXTENSIVE TREATMENT DURING UNGA. HE POINTED TO ALGERIAN EFFORTS TO INSCRIBE ISSUE ON UNGA AGENDA, BUT BELIEVED LIKELY OUTCOME WOULD BE A REPETITION OF LAST YEAR'S UNGA DEFERRAL TO OAU. UNGA'S APPROACH WOULD OF COURSE BE AFFECTED BY WHETHER LUSAKA SPECIAL OAU SUMMIT ON SAHARA WAS HELD, WHICH WAS "FAR FROM CERTAIN," BENKIRANE CONCLUDED.

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